

Serial No. 10/679,683  
Filed: 6 October 2003

Attorney Docket No. 84842

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

Claims 16-21 (canceled).

22. (new) A method of etching stainless steel comprising:

immersing the steel in a first bath comprising sodium metasilicate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate, sodium hydroxide, nacconol and deionized water; and

immersing the stainless steel in a second bath comprising titanium dioxide and deionized water.

23. (new) A method in accordance with claim 22 wherein the second bath comprises titanium dioxide in an amount ranging from about 0.5 pbw to about 6 pbw and deionized water in an amount ranging from about 2 pbw to about 10 pbw.

24. (new) A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the first bath comprises sodium metasilicate in an amount ranging from about 1 pbw to about 5 pbw, tetrasodium pyrophosphate in an amount ranging from about 1 pbw to about 4 pbw, sodium hydroxide in an amount ranging from about 0.5 pbw to about 2.0 pbw, nacconol in an amount ranging from about 0.1 pbw to about 1.0 pbw and deionized water in an amount ranging from about 90 pbw to about 95 pbw.

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25. (new) A method in accordance with claim 24 further comprising rinsing the steel in deionized water after immersing the steel in the second bath.

26. (new) A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein the second bath is maintained at a temperature ranging from about 140° F to about 190° F.

27. (new) A method in accordance to claim 25 wherein the steel is dried in an oven having a temperature less than about 140° F.